

SUBJECTS.

The need for certain irrigation works in the Vilavancode taluk.

Mr. C. Raman Tampi (Member, Vilavancode taluk) stated that, prior to the advent of the Kodayar dam, the Government used to give them help in the matter of water supply for the cultivation in the taluk, but now the case was different. In the Southern Division, Vilavancode was the only taluk which had not the benefit of using the Kodayar water. The Kuzhithura river water could not be utilized, as the bed was so low that there was no means of lifting up the water. Frequent failure of crops took place for want of water. The Member suggested that channels from the Kodayar should be opened to irrigate the fields of the taluk and that tanks, both big and small, should be repaired as used to be done before. The people were ready to pay water cess, increased rent, or half of the money that might be spent for improving the tanks. They were quite satisfied if the tanks were improved. The Member brought to notice also the fact that more than 50 petitions sent under the Irrigation Regulation for repairing the tanks had not elicited any favourable reply.

Dewan.—The Irrigation Regulation explicitly provides that the ryots may apply to the Peishkar, and that, if the Peishkar sees that the majority of the ryots agree to the work being done, he can set the law in motion and pay half the cost from the Government. The Irrigation Regulation is framed with a view to facilitate the repair of small tanks like these. The Member is requested to give a list of the petitions sent by the ryots of Vilavankode to the authorities after the rules came into force, and action will be taken.

Mr. Matheran Kesavan (Member, Neyyattinkara taluk) said that there were only some *chiras*, *yelas* and tanks to be depended on for their cultivation. But these had become useless for want of repairs and the consequent encroachment on them by the adjoining land-owners. People were in a difficulty to find water for their cultivation and many had resorted to the hilly parts to cultivate tapioca. Once, there was a proposal of a water-scheme by constructing a channel at Neyyar, but it was dropped. There were about 400 tanks in the taluk and the Member prayed that one-tenth of the revenue of the taluk should be utilized for repairing them for the use of cultivation.

Mr. M. Kesava Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara taluk) referred to the frequent failure of crops in the taluk for want of water, as the tanks and *chiras* were useless, as they had become almost levelled up and encroached upon by the neighbouring land-owners. Some water was available in the river and canals, but the lands were at a higher level, and only by the use of machinery could water be brought up for distribution. The Member proposed that suitable sites